

Filed for intro on 01/26/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 560
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. James Monroe
Brown of Pulaski.

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2000, James Monroe Brown of Pulaski departed from this life for a far better existence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown was born June 17, 1928, to John Tyler and Theola McCollum Brown in Aymett Town; and

WHEREAS, from his experiences as the son of devout Christians, James Monroe Brown accepted Christ into his life as a mere child; he always championed the causes of the perfect Christian, and fought for the opportunity to spread the glorious word of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, a proficient public servant who remained true to his roots, Mr. Brown filed the first administrative lawsuit through the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund against Urban Renewal, and the *Hill Burton Act* against the Giles County Hospital; both cases were won, with the federal government forcing integration by cutting off federal funds to entities that practiced segregation; and

SJR0560

00985583

WHEREAS, James Monroe Brown led the African American community, and all freedom-loving persons of Tennessee, in the fight against paroling convicted assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr., James Earl Ray; and

WHEREAS, during his memorable endeavors in the music industry, Mr. Brown started Chanson Records Company, and the Czar Music Publishing Company in order to showcase the musical talents of African American Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Brown received his educational training in Giles County, excelling as a football player for the Bridgeforth Blue Devils; and

WHEREAS, James Monroe Brown let his radiant disposition shine through his valiant stint in the United States Navy during World War II, and the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown turned his attention to politics and the civil rights movement subsequent to his discharge from the Navy; and

WHEREAS, he established a memorable tenure in the political arena as a civil rights activist; James Monroe Brown worked with purpose and intelligence; he ran for Constable in the late 1950s, was a candidate for Mayor of Pulaski in 1989, and worked on civil rights with the Honorable Andrew Young (former Mayor of Atlanta), Avon Williams, Esq., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, and former President Jimmy Carter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James Monroe Brown was a valuable member of numerous organizations, including the Tennessee Voters Council, of which he served as General Chairman, Abraham McKissack Elks Lodge 1489, I.B.P.O.E. of W, of which he was an exalted ruler, and was the first African American Democratic County Chairman in the South as well as the first African American County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the sterling legacy Mr. Brown leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by his friends, colleagues, and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, James Monroe Brown was an active and devout member of the church, serving dutifully as the Steward of Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and as a member of the former Shepard Bible Class; and

WHEREAS, A renowned Bible scholar and evangelistic speaker, Mr. Brown was known for being a great storyteller, a tradition heralded and cherished in the African American community, dating back to traditional African societies, where they were called *griots*; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his wife, Anne Elizabeth McKissack Brown, whom he married in 1957, and by his neighbors, many friends, and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, even as we mourn the irreplaceable loss of James Monroe Brown, we must give thanks that Tennesseans have benefited so greatly from his activism, his probity, his piety, his expertise, and his unwavering commitment to freedom for all members of this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to express our gratitude for the bountiful life of Mr. James M. Brown of Pulaski. As we honor his memory, we also remember with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to his brethren.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and extend our condolences to Mr. Brown's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Brown family with this final clause omitted from such copy.